GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:77
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2004
SHORTAGE OF NON COKING POWER GRADE COAL
Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Plants are facing shortage of non- coking power grade coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such shortage; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to overcome this shortage?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI SHIBU SOREN)

(a) to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 77 FOR ANSWER ON 9.7.2004.

(a) & (b): Even though Coal India Limited(CIL) has supplied during the year 2003-04, 233.27 million tonnes of coal to the power utilities as against annual plan target of 225.99 million tonnes fixed by the Inter-Ministerial Group under the aegis of the Planning Commission, some power stations had turned critical i.e. having stocks of coal less than 7 days' consumption. The reason for some of the power houses to turn critical is increased plant load factor and higher demand for power.

(c): A contingency coal movement plan for power utilities for the period April-June 04 was prepared by an inter-ministerial group comprising Ministries of Railways, Power & Coal on the initiative of the Cabinet Secretariat to build up coal stock in power plants. CIL and Indian Railways accorded an overriding priority to power sector in despatch and movement of coal. Thus during the quarters of January to March 2004 and April to June 2004 totally 125.097 million tones of coal have been dispatched by Coal India Limited to power utilities as against the actual supply of 112.752 million tonnes in the corresponding quarters of the previous year. Close monitoring by the Inter-Ministerial group on day-to-day basis resulted in significant reduction in number of critical power plants in the country. On account of coordinated efforts by all concerned, it could be ensured that there were no outages in power utilities on account of non availability of coal.

Ministry of Coal also has taken steps to expedite the sanction and grounding of new coal projects to augment coal supplies specially to the power sector.

Government have also reduced the import duty on thermal coal which now stands at 5% with a view to enabling power houses to import more coal to supplement their needs on account of increased generation of power.